

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Accomack County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

May 1, 2009 to May 22, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal construction project to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to expand the launch range at the Wallops Island Flight Facility (WFF) in Accomack County. The proposed action is intended to expand and upgrade NASA and Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) facilities to support up to and including medium large class suborbital and orbital expendable launch vehicle (ELV) launch activities from WFF. Components of the proposed action include site improvements required to support launch operations (such as facility construction and infrastructure improvements); testing, fueling, and processing operations; up to two static fire tests per year; and launching an additional six vehicles and associated spacecraft per year from Pad 0-A. Site improvements to support launch operations include: minor modifications to the boat dock on the north end of Wallops Island; construction of a dedicated Payload Fueling Facility (PFF), a Payload Processing Facility (PPF) and storage; construction of new roads and minor upgrades to existing roads; construction of a new launch complex in approximately the same location as the existing Pad 0-A, including a Liquid Fueling Facility (LFF); and minor interior modifications to launch support facilities.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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